
NOTICE OF MEETING

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE DECISION MEETING

THURSDAY, 7 JULY 2016 AT 4.00 PM

CONFERENCE ROOM B - SECOND FLOOR, CIVIC OFFICES

Telephone enquiries to Lisa Gallacher 02392 834056

Email: lisa.gallacher@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE DECISION MEETING

Councillor Ryan Brent (Conservative)

Group Spokespersons

Councillor Alicia Denny, UK Independence Party

Councillor John Ferrett, Labour

Councillor Rob Wood, Liberal Democrat

(NB This Agenda should be retained for future reference with the minutes of this meeting.)

Please note that the agenda, minutes and non-exempt reports are available to view online on the Portsmouth City Council website: www.portsmouth.gov.uk

Deputations by members of the public may be made on any item where a decision is going to be taken. The request should be made in writing to the contact officer (above) by 12 noon of the working day before the meeting, and must include the purpose of the deputation (for example, for or against the recommendations). Email requests are accepted.

AGENDA

- 1 **Declarations of interest**
- 2 **Apologies for absence**
- 3 **Foster Carer Allowance Review (Pages 1 - 52)**

Purpose of report

To provide the Cabinet Member with an update, following a review of the allowances and skills fees for foster carers, staying put, family link and lodgings plus carers; and to seek approval to implement the revised policy (which includes the scale of allowances & fees table) at Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet Member:

(1) Approve the revised policy (including the scale of allowances and fees table) at Appendix 1, with effect from 01 August 2016, and specifically note the following key changes:

- i. The proposal to amend the Level 3 skill fee, in order to introduce a flat rate skill fee of £300 across all age bands.**
- ii. The proposal to adjust the holiday, birthday and festivity allowances, in order to bring them in line with the Standard Fostering Allowance (SFA). The 'annual school holiday' allowance will be equivalent to two weeks of the SFA, whilst the Birthday & Festivity Allowance will each be aligned to the equivalent of one week SFA.**
- iii. The proposal to introduce a new payments scheme for Parent and Child placements, which is aligned to the fostering and 'lodgings plus' payment rates.**
- iv. The expectation that Disability Living Allowance will be used to meet the extra costs of caring for a disabled child.**
- v. The inclusion of the 'Staying Put' allowances within the revised policy document.**

(2) Agree that for Level 3 carers who are currently caring for children between the ages of 0 and 10, they will continue to receive the current Level 3 fees for those children currently in placement, whilst they continue to care for them, until they reach the age of 11. Any new placements with these carers would be undertaken at the new rates.

(3) Agree that foster carers will receive the child savings amount within their weekly payment and that they will now be expected to set up the child bank accounts and ensure that the savings are appropriately deposited for the children in their care.

(4) Agree that the Deputy Director of Children's Services - Safeguarding in consultation with the S.151 officer, may adjust the Standard Fostering Allowance in line with changes to the Government Minimum Fostering Allowance - South East; having consulted with carers.

4 Children's Social Care Budget Outturn (Pages 53 - 60)

Purpose of report

To inform the Cabinet Member of the revenue expenditure position within the Children's Social Care portfolio cash limit for the financial year 2015-16. This report sets out the budget position and contributing factors to the final portfolio overspend at the end of the financial year.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet Member:

- Notes the Children's Social Care portfolio outturn position for**

2015/16, of £1.398m in excess of the approved cash limit provision.

- **Notes the ongoing budget pressures within the portfolio, and the need for continued action to reduce the expenditure of Children's Social Care service so that it can operate within its authorised cash limit for 2016-17.**

The following item is for information only

5 Bi-annual adoption report (Pages 61 - 68)

Purpose

The previous report was prepared in September 2015. This report will update the Lead Member on Portsmouth Adoption Agency's end of year activity and ongoing development in accordance with the government's Adoption Reform Programme introduced in 2012.